

uphold what is right and true. May You always be near to guide in their decisions, to comfort them in their failures, and to keep them humble in their successes. Give us faith, Lord, that we can see in every difficulty there is an opportunity, and in every blessing there is a responsibility, and in every purpose a task.

Lord, we ask for Your watchful eye to be upon our troops wherever they are serving. And be with their families that love them dearly and for those who are grieving their loss at this time. We give thanks for all of the organizations who have given support to make our troops return safe and sure.

Wherever we are serving, help us to accomplish great and good things for our States and for our Nation, now and forever. We pray for Thy glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to a concurrent resolution and a joint resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 9. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week.

S.J. Res. 12. Joint resolution proclaiming Casimir Pulaski to be an honorary citizen of the United States posthumously.

WELCOMING REV. LAWRENCE L. VOLLINK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I'm very honored to be here to welcome Chaplain Larry Vollink and his wife, Susie, who was also in the counterintelligence field in the United States military during her day. They're in Washington, D.C. for the annual Washington American Legion Conference. The chaplain is the national chaplain for the American Legion. He lives in Ypsilanti,

Michigan, a graduate of South High School, the very same high school that Gerald Ford attended.

He's retired from the Army after 20 years of service to his country. He was stationed in Germany, Fort Campbell, Fort Carson and Selfridge Air Base in Michigan.

He has pastored churches in Ohio and Illinois and Michigan. He has served as a pastor and continues to serve as a pastor in hospitals and Hospice around the mid-Michigan area.

He has committed and dedicated his life to the military families that he loves and respects and is a part of. He has nourished their souls and strengthened their faith. We are honored to have him today lead us in prayer and through the challenging days that lie ahead of this great Nation. And we welcome not only his wife, Susie, but the entire Michigan delegation that has joined him. He's got one heck of a cavalry in his reserve.

BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. The President has presented his budget, and it really is a blueprint for the future. It's time to end the responsibility that's been created over the last decade and return us back to some honest accounting principles; to making certain that we put everything in the pot, examine line by line the budget, and make the kind of investments in the future that will strengthen our economy and grow our economy for our children.

And what does that mean? Investments in clean energy, so that we're no longer dependent on fossil fuels and foreign oil; investments in renewable energy, wind and solar, and biofuels.

We'll make sure that we have a health care system that really works for every American, making sure that we have quality affordable access to health care. This is an investment that the President has put before us in his budget, and it's an investment whose time is overdue.

Investments in education that make certain that from pre-Kindergarten through high school and then on-going learning we are preparing a workforce for the future, a workforce for the 21st century economy. And then, of course, making sure that we invest in our infrastructure, in water and sewer and transportation and broadband, in an electrical grid for the future, being certain that we've made the kinds of investments. The President has presented a budget that makes the kind of investments that will restore us to a strengthened economy in the 21st century.

WHAT'S A TRILLION DOLLARS?

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in February this House passed two bills that are well over \$1 trillion: the illusive Stimulus Bill that rewards special interest groups, and the Omnibus Appropriations Bill. Both were passed.

There are even more high-dollar government programs being planned in back rooms of this Capitol.

So how much is \$1 trillion? Well, it's 1 with 12 zeros behind it. It will buy you 36 million Chevrolet Malibus. It's spending \$1,000 a day at the mall for 2.5 million years. Or it will pay the college education for every high school graduate for the next 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, the problem with this spending is we don't have the money, so we're going have to borrow it or raise taxes. Both of those are bad ideas. This big government spending spree agenda is not helping our economy. The stock market keeps going down. Congress is forcibly taking money from Americans to spend on programs that don't work, and also acquiring debt that Americans yet to be born will have to pay for.

And that's just the way it is.

A CLEAR, VISIONARY BLUEPRINT FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, we were given the most honest, visionary and fair budget that we have gotten in 8 years. It includes the cost of the wars and the cost of patching the Alternative Minimum Tax which the Bush budgets were never willing to do. It invests in an education and energy future that will sustain a strong prosperous economy. And the fact is that it is fair.

Now, that's going to be the talking point, that it does allow taxes to be restored on those who have seen the highest income growth over the last 8 years, the wealthiest 2 percent of our society. This issue has historically been a defining feature of America, that people who benefit the most from our economic prosperity should pay for the cost of the military that defends that wealth, should pay for the cost of the roads and the rails that transport that wealth, and, in fact, should pay for the cost of educating the workforce that produces that wealth.

This budget, for the first time in 8 years, is not dead on arrival. This is a clear visionary blueprint for America's future, and we should support it.

SAVE TOURS OF THE CAPITOL

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. JIM MORAN worked to save tours of the Capitol, and Congressman LOEBSACK and I have now authored a bipartisan letter to the Architect of

the Capitol urging him to restore the rights of Members and staff to offer tours to our constituents.

The red coats of the CVC do not own the Capitol. Members of Congress do not own the Capitol. The American people bought and paid for it, but the CVC red coats now block Americans from seeing the Capitol with their Congressmen or staff.

We are headed to a train wreck when CVC red coats turn away thousands of American families from the Capitol over spring break. They say, sure, we'll handle your constituents, no problem. Actually, they're going to block the access of the American people to the Capitol.

Now, a recent Facebook posting by a CVC red coat reflected a stunning arrogance that should not be tolerated towards American citizens.

I urge Members to sign the bipartisan Loebsock-Kirk letter to ensure that your constituents can see the Capitol when they want, with their Member of Congress, and not be blocked by the CVC red coats.

PRESIDENT OBAMA LOOKS TO BRING HONESTY AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE BUDGET PROCESS

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, last week President Obama continued to bring real change to Washington by announcing his plan to bring honesty and accountability to the budget process.

For the last 8 years, the Bush administration and Washington Republicans masked the true costs of their budget by refusing to include funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and refusing to include any funding for natural disasters, even though we all knew they would happen. These accounting gimmicks were used to make deficit projections look smaller than they actually were.

These tricks will soon be a thing of the past, as President Obama wants the American people to have facts so they can hold us all accountable. That's the way government should work, and thanks to President Obama's commitment to honesty in government, it will be instituted as part of his budget outline later this week.

Mr. Speaker, for years, congressional Democrats criticized the Bush administration for using these gimmicks, and so we commend President Obama for this very welcome change.

EARMARKS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the President is expected to sign the omnibus appropriations bill this week, once the Senate acts on the bill.

Since the President made numerous promises to reduce earmarks during his campaign, the American people should know what is in the bill that he will be signing, another 1,100-plus page bill. This is a \$410 billion spending bill which contains 8,500 earmarks, including \$300,000 for migrating loons in Nevada, \$900,000 for planetarium equipment in Chicago, \$190,000 for trolleys in Puerto Rico, \$3 million for a foot bridge in St. Louis, \$380,000 for a light-house in Maine, \$1 million for red snappers in Florida, \$7 million for sea turtles in Hawaii, and on and on.

Migratory loons in Nevada? Red snappers in Florida? Trolleys in Puerto Rico? In a time of trillion dollar deficits, enough is enough!

92ND ANNIVERSARY OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP

(Mr. PIERLUISI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, 92 years ago, President Wilson signed a bill and the people of Puerto Rico became U.S. citizens.

Puerto Rico's relationship with the United States is as close as it is complex. In some instances, promises of equal treatment took too long to redeem, and there are aspects of the relationship that should trouble men and women of conscience.

But like so many American stories, this is a chronicle of progress and a determined march towards a more perfect union. For me, as for millions of my constituents, the pride we feel in being Puerto Rican is matched by the pride we feel in being American citizens. To those who express concern that any further strengthening of the bond between Puerto Rico and the U.S. will result in a weakening of Puerto Rico's identity, I submit that history and experience demonstrate otherwise.

The people of Puerto Rico have been fighting for our country ever since they became citizens. American soldiers from Puerto Rico, fiercely proud of their country and their island roots, provide powerful testimony that these feelings complement, rather than contradict, one another.

Mr. Speaker, on this anniversary, I salute the 4 million U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico.

GOVERNMENT MEDDLING IN MARKETS

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Pilgrim's Pride Poultry Company announced the closing of three chicken processing operations throughout the southeastern United States.

In and around my district in North Louisiana, 1,300 jobs were lost. It is important for the American public to know why and how these jobs were

lost. In addition to the decline in consumer protein demand, Pilgrim's Pride was most affected by high feed prices causing a loss in the last year of over \$1 billion, forcing them into bankruptcy.

The main cause of these high prices was Federal mandates to increase the use of ethanol. This large spike in corn prices is being felt throughout the country by consumers and producers alike. Is this a foreshadowing of more disasters to come because of the governmental manipulation of the energy markets?

Just like the mortgage debacle, governmental meddling in markets continues hurting the working family, both directly and indirectly.

FAIRNESS IN TAXES

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, President Obama offered his first budget to this House last week, and it calls for fairness that hasn't been seen in this American government for a long time, fairness in taxes between the most wealthy and the least fortunate, people who need help and people who need to provide help, a budget that provides for health care, for energy, for veterans, most of all, for the issues that are most important to the American public. Investments in our infrastructure, which will spur this economy and stimulate the economy.

I would ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join with the Democrats in supporting our President who was elected with overwhelming numbers and still has overwhelming support. Confidence and support for this President is what's necessary to give people the confidence to invest in our economy and get us out of this recession.

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BUDGET

(Mr. CHAFFETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, in the President's address to the joint session of Congress, he said unequivocally he was opposed to bigger government. Yet the President's budget does exactly the opposite. Big government is back and is bigger than before. Under the President's plan, the national debt will double to \$20 trillion. We cannot sustain this; we cannot afford this, and we simply must say, "No."

The President said, "If your family earns less than \$250,000 a year, you will not see your taxes increase a single dime. I repeat: not a single dime."

Yet the President's budget calls for significant tax increases that will be paid by every American, by 100 percent of us. Let us remember it is not the